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Historical County Assessor Cards for Louisville Going Online!

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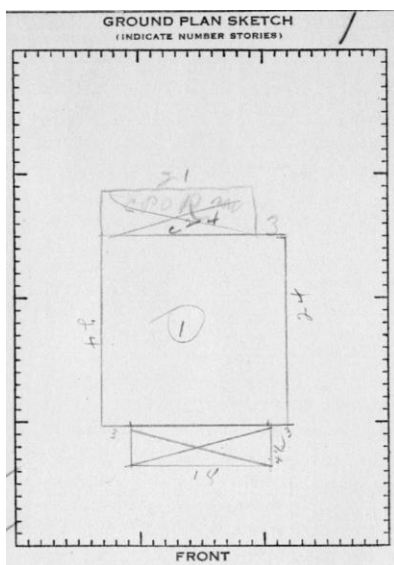
In 2010-11, the Louisville Historical Museum, with the help of volunteers, acquired scanned images of many property appraisal records originally created by the Boulder County Assessor's Office. These cards are currently located at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder and are among other cards that cover Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, Superior, and other areas in Boulder County. The Museum now holds digital images of the 1,291 assessor cards that relate to the Louisville area. As the Museum looks forward to putting these images online in November, it has been important to create records for these assessor cards on our museum software program called PastPerfect. This will allow the cards to be searchable online with helpful information and pictures.

Some may wonder what an assessor card is or what was recorded on it and for what purpose. Boulder County is like most other communities in its attempt to assess the value of residential and commercial properties for tax purposes. The cards we have for the Louisville area show appraisals from 1948 through 1983. They cover the Main Street commercial area and subdivisions such as Jefferson Place, Caledonia Place, Capitol Hill, Pleasant Hill, and others. The cards are a wealth of information, as they include information about the acreage and the building. The valuation of each property was assessed using checklists and information about condition.

The accompanying photo, ground plan sketch, and card detail are from an assessor card for 647 Front Street. This is now the parking lot next to Lucky Pie and Sweet Cow at Pine and Front. We can see by the date and signature that this property was assessed in 1948 and then again in 1950. (It is still common to appraise properties every two years.) The acreage description tells us it was a level lot of soil and that the road in front was gravel or stone. On the second page, the checklist shows it was a wood frame building with woodboard siding and a medium pitched roof with asphalt shingles. There were softwood floors and plastered interior walls.



Assessor cards can also give us a glimpse into the advances in home utilities. The house at 647 Front Street had electric lights, a coal stove for heat, and indoor plumbing with an “automatic” water heater. A ground plan sketch details the length of walls and additions. The final value of the main building/garage was assessed at \$1,130 dollars and the land for \$150. The assessor added up the numbers and put a valuation of \$1,280 on the property. Did anyone’s jaw just drop? Clearly, property values in Louisville have changed drastically in sixty years!



PLUMBING	
NONE <input type="checkbox"/>	WATER ONLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATHROOMS <u>1</u> TILED <u>1</u>	
NUMBER OF FIXTURES:	
WASHSTANDS <u>1</u>	TUBS <u>1</u>
WATERCLOSETS <u>1</u>	SHWRS. <u>1</u>
SHOWER STALLS <u>1</u>	
AUTOMATIC WATER HEATER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
KITCHEN SINK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LAUNDRY TUBS <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER ITEMS <u>not on main floor</u>	

When these records go online in November, you are encouraged to check them out through the website link at www.louisville-library.org and enjoy browsing assessor cards with their snapshots of a different era in Louisville.

One caution: the handwritten dates of construction given on the assessor cards shouldn't necessarily be relied up for accuracy. Questions about interpreting these cards can be directed to the Museum.

Thank you to the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, a branch of the Boulder Public Library, for allowing the Museum to scan the assessor cards and make them more accessible to Louisville residents. And thank you to Jessica Fasick and Melanie Muckle for scanning the cards!